[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

of medicines that are out of stock in the hospitals should not be given to patients in order to enable them to purchase the same from shops, that, in the place of such medicines, substitutes should be mixed up, and that the patients should not be informed of the fact that any medicine is out of stock in the hospitals?

(*b*) Are there "substitutes" even for important medicines?

(*c*) Are the available medicines adequately supplied to the hospitals?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No circular of the kind referred to has been issued.

(*b*) The member is referred to the Darbar Physician's circular No. 15, dated the 2nd December, 1921, a copy* of which is laid on the table.

(*c*) Drugs ordinarily required are adequately supplied.

Stock of Medicines in Hospitals.

16. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Darbar Physician has issued a circular to the effect that medical officers should not prescribe medicines that are out of stock and direct patients to purchase them from outside?

(*b*) Is it a fact that most drugs of everyday use have run short in many of the hospitals of the State?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 15, put by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.

(*b*) Government have received no complaints to that effect.

Purchase of Opium and Ganja.

17. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of opium and ganja which the Excise Department purchased from the British stores at Santravur during 1096 and 1097, and the quantity that remained in stock on the 30th Karkadakam, 1097?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In 1096, 5,000 seers and in 1097, 3,500 seers of ganja and no opium were purchased from the storehouse at Santravur.

The opium and ganja that remained in stock on the 30th Karkadakam, 1097, were 2481 seers 15·69 tolas and 3,460 seers 22·125 tolas respectively.

Devicolam Division and Plague.

18. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Will the Government be pleased to state from what time the Devicolam Division has been kept under observation for purposes of the plague?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to page 382, Part IV, of the Government Gazette dated the 2nd January, 1923, and to page 407, Part IV, of the Government Gazette dated the 23rd January, 1923.

* *Vide* Appendix V—page 11.

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